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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 001328

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/06/2016  
TAGS: PREL PTER KPAL UNGA MU  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON NAM SUMMIT: OMAN

REF: A. MUSCAT 1327  
    1B. MUSCAT 1317  
    1C. MUSCAT 1316  
    1D. STATE 145279  
    1E. STATE 145242

Classified By: Ambassador Gary A. Grappo for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

11. (C) The Ambassador delivered ref E demarche on September 4 to Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusef bin Alawi regarding the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Cuba, in addition to discussing the upcoming Arab League Ministerial and other topics with the Minister (refs A-C). Alawi confirmed that he would attend the NAM Summit in Havana before proceeding to New York City to head the Omani delegation to the UN General Assembly. He added that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas would also be in Havana "working the crowd."

12. (C) Regarding NAM statements on terrorism and the Middle East conflict, Alawi said that he did not expect any substantive debate or heated discussion in Havana on these issues as consensus on a draft final document should have been hammered out during earlier NAM preparatory meetings. While Alawi appreciated the importance of condemning terrorism in all of its forms, he stated that a distinction had to be drawn between terrorism and the legitimate right to defend against and resist aggression. (Alawi's comments on Lebanon and the UN Security Council election are reported in refs A and B.)

GRAPPO